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FRANCO-BELGIAN GROUP PROPOSES CONSTRUCTION OF 242 THOUSAND KILOWATT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Joint U.S.-Euratom Reactor Board Gets Proposal

for U.S.-Type Reactor on Meuse River

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 31 -- The U.S.-Euratom Joint Reactor Board announced today receipt of a proposal from the Franco-Belgian Society for Nuclear Energy of Ardennes (SENA) for the construction under the second-round invitation of the U.S.-Euratom joint nuclear power program of a plant utilizing a 242-MW(e) pressurized water reactor.

The second-round invitation for proposals, issued on September 21, 1961, by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and the Euratom Commission, call for the construction under the program of nuclear power plants which are to be brought into operation by December 31, 1965. Proposals in response to the second-round invitation may be submitted at any time prior to June 1, 1962. The SENa proposal is the first to be received in response to that invitation.

French and Belgian Utilities Share Cost

SENA is comprised of a group of French and Belgian utilities which will share in the cost of the plant and its operation. Its proposal envisages the construction of a nuclear power plant at a site near Givet, France, on the Franco-Belgian border, with the electricity produced to be distributed to the interconnected French and Belgian power grid. The plant equipment is to be supplied under a contract between SENa and: Framatome (a group of seven French companies concerned with reactor construction); the Belgian companies ACEC (Ateliers de Construction Électrique de Charleroi), Cockerill Ougrée and MMN (Metallurgie et Mécanique Nucleaire); and the American firm Westinghouse Electric International Company.

Cave Will House Reactor

The SENa pressurized water reactor is to be located in a cavern deep within a hill at a bend on the Meuse River. Another cavern nearby will house auxiliary equipment, while the electric generating unit will be installed in a building outside.

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Euratom Incentives Aid Project

The SENA project has been granted the status of a joint enterprise of the Euratom Community by action of the Euratom Council of Ministers on September 9, 1961, under Chapter V of the Treaty of Rome, which provides for certain fiscal, customs and other privileges to projects of outstanding importance to the development of nuclear industry in the Community.

The Euratom Commission and the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission previously accepted a proposal under the first-round invitation, issued April 13, 1959, for construction in Italy by Societa Elettro-Nucleare (SENN) of a nuclear power plant utilizing a boiling water reactor which is to be brought into operation by December 31, 1963. The SENN project utilizes a 150 electrical megawatt dual cycle boiling water reactor. The plant, for which equipment is being supplied by International General Electric Company and Ansaldo, is located near the mouth of the Garigliano River (between Rome and Naples).

Reactors Are Part of U.S.-Euratom Joint Effort

The invitations were issued in implementation of the agreement signed in 1958 for cooperation between the U.S. and Euratom for the development of peaceful uses of atomic energy. The agreement established a joint nuclear power program intended to bring large-scale nuclear power plants into operation within the Euratom community. Nuclear reactors used are to be types on which research and development has been carried to an advanced stage in the U.S.

In order to improve the over-all operative and economic aspects of these nuclear power plants and in particular to assist in decreasing the unit cost of power generated, the Euratom Commission and the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission are also conducting a 10-year joint research and development program centered on the reactor types included in the power program.